

# Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

# FORAGING AROUND

'Industry, Farmer, Scientist - Working Together Toward a Sounder Grassland Program'



# 2003 PFGC WINTER NEWSLETTER

- Research Reports on How to Overcome Drought.
- Project Grass information.
- Feature on Award-Winning Cattle on Grazing System.
- Preview of Forage Conference in Grantville (March 5-6).
- Calendar Meeting items
- PFGC, AFGC News.



### Virginia Grazer Sold On Bermuda Grass

**GAY BROWNE**, Virginia Grazer, HARRISONBURG, Va., is willing to give up his 15-acre farm to grow Bermuda grass. On July 27 during the Second World Forage Bermuda Grass Field Day, some 145 persons learned what it is.

"My goal is an average year to grow your second and not make hay," Phillips said. "I'm gonna do it."

The progressive grazer didn't protest when this could happen, although he warned he'd be known to "talk the ears off a stack of corn."

Phillips invited this day participants to visit through the fields to see the grass without their shoes and farm. He speaks about the benefits of this versatile grass on which he grows a variety of livestock, including beef cows.

"The cheapest machine you can run has four legs and a fly watter," he said.

For every person who is willing to listen and hold enough to try something new, there are scores of non-believers when it comes to Bermuda grass moving north from the deep south where it is generally grown.

"Some say it's too cold here for Bermuda," Phillips said. He reported being laughed at on a ranch that he later planted while the neighbors can't see.

Phillips and his wife Susan operate a regional grazing system designed with 20 breed cows, 20 ewes and 20



Aged and true Bermuda grass is pictured at the World Forage Bermuda Grass Field Day, Harrisonburg, Va. The seeds of Bermuda grass are deep into the earth to pull up roots of Bermuda grass in order to plant more Bermuda grass. The preferred time for this is in the fall, just before the first bitter frost sets, he said. He then says winter rye - rather than ryegrass - prior to planting Bermuda grass "sprigs" the following year.

"I will not see ryegrass," he said. "It continually wants to come back."

The Bermuda sprigs can be planted by hand or by machine for large areas, Phillips said. A machine converted used a million converted acres of pasture in the following year.

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### Lehigh Hay Exporter Keeps Delivering In Drought Year

**CHERRYVILLE**, Pa., has been a hotbed in recent years for hay marketing. From the drought year of 2000, when the price of hay was \$100 per ton, to the current year of 2002, when it is \$120 per ton, the market has been a roller coaster ride.

With the help of his son, Mike, and his wife, Susan, Mike has been able to keep his hay business profitable during these difficult times. Mike has been able to keep his hay business profitable during these difficult times.

Mike's hay business is still relatively new in our region, though there are many hay producers in the northeast part of the country.

Much of the success later in Mike's operation has been attributed to the fact that the principle remains the same: good hay is competitive and should be sold at a profit.

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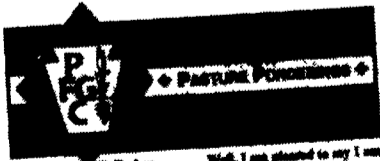
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The result is a high yielding 70-80 percent, depending on the type of hay.

The first harvest large quantities in a short period of time, as close to the peak of production as possible. For example, that generally means the pre- to early May.

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**Donald E. Fisher**, NIMCS Coordinator, says that his hay business has been successful because of the fact that the principle remains the same: good hay is competitive and should be sold at a profit.

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